Implementation of Numaligarh-Bongaigaon Product Pipeline

2392. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whehter the implementation of Numaligarh-Bongaigaon product pipeline is in progress, if so, what is its status;

(b) if not, what are the constraints; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to expand the capacity of the existing Guwahati-Siliguri product pipeline linking the other producers of the State to dispose of the finished products outside the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Railways have procured tank wagons and put up other infrastructure like railway line, siding etc., in Numaligarh which is considered adequate to evacuate Numaligarh Refinery Products.

(c) No, Sir.

Demand and Supply of LPG Connection in NER

2393. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demand and supply of LPG connections in NER as on 31st January, 2000 district-wise/State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to increase the supply of LPG connections to the people of NER;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) As on 1-1-2000 there were 13.61 lakh LPG costomers registered with the distributors of the Public Sector Oil Companies in the North Eastern Region of the country. Their demand for LPG is by and large, being met in full.

(b) to (d) New LPG connections are released in a Phased manner throughout the country depending on the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Government has a plan

to release 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1-12-1999.

Exemption of Sales Tax for RPL

2394. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL) is exempted from sales tax payment by the State Government of Gujarat for 17 years;

(b) if so, whether RPL has still been allowed to charge sales tax on public sector oil companies even though the same is not deposited; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited been granted provisional eligibility certificate under the Sales Tax Incentive Scheme of the Government of Gujarat. The scheme permits an eligible certificate holder to avail sales lax exeption benefit for 16 years or sales tax deferment benefit for 17 years or composite scheme of exemption and deferment for 16 years subject to conditions laid out in the scheme. M/s. RPL have opted for composite scheme. As per the scheme, RPL can charge sales tax under applicable sales tax laws of the State Government and the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, and RPL is billing the applicable sales tax on the sales of petroleum products to the oil marketing companies.

Setting up of a LNG terminal in Gujarat

2395. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Petronet LNG will be responsible for setting up a huge Rs. 2,950 crores terminal for import of 5 million tonnes (TPA) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons for selecting Gujarat for this project; -

(c) how does Petronet LNG propose to finance this project;

(d) whether pre-qualified bidders arc supposed to arrartge offshore credit;